

CITY OF HAMILTON

**COMMUNITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Recreation Division**

TO: Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: WARD 5
COMMITTEE DATE: July 10, 2013	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Lake Avenue School Cricket Batting Cages (CS13030) (Ward 5)	
SUBMITTED BY: Joe-Anne Priel General Manager Community and Emergency Services Department	PREPARED BY: Steve Sevor 905-546-2424 ext.4645 Bryan Ozorio 905-546-2424 ext. 7017
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the City of Hamilton enter into a Licence Agreement with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) to construct two cricket batting cages located at Lake Avenue School;
- (b) That \$5,000 of this project be funded from the Ward 5 Area Rating Special Capital Re-Investment Reserve # 108055;
- (c) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the Licence Agreement between the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board for the construction and use of the Lake Avenue School cricket batting cages, as well as any related or ancillary documentation, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,
- (d) That the General Manager of Community Services or designate be granted the delegated authority to approve any changes to the Licence Agreement between

the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board and to execute any related or ancillary documentation as may be required to give effect thereto, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recommendations in the City of Hamilton Outdoor Recreation Facilities & Sport Field Provision Plan support the maintenance and development of cricket grounds within the city. Along with the development of cricket grounds, facilities such as the cricket batting cages support the development of the sport from a skill based perspective. Over the last three years there has been consistent requests by the cricket sport community to make investments that support skill development in cricket. The requests from the cricket sport community has prompted a proposed collaboration between the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) to install two cricket batting cages at Lake Avenue School.

The local community in Ward 5 has a strong affinity for the sport of cricket, while the students and staff at Lake Avenue School have expressed an equally strong interest in offering the sport of cricket within their curriculum. The cricket batting cages would be used jointly by the community and school students. The proposed location also provides good synergies with the Domenic Agostino Riverdale Recreation Centre which is adjacent to Lake Avenue School.

The proposed cricket batting cages would be constructed in place of the current baseball backstop which has not been in use for a number of years. The baseball backstop would be removed and replaced with two cricket batting cages.

The estimated cost of the project is \$30,000 (\$23,500 for fencing and \$6,500 for granular pad). The HWDSB will provide the land for the batting cages and allow public access to the cricket batting cages in designated non-school use times. A community grant of \$25,000 has been secured by community members to offset a portion of the costs of design, purchase and installation of the cricket batting cages. The Ward 5 Councillor is supportive of funding the remaining \$5,000 through area rated funds.

Staff from the Recreation Division have reached an agreement in principle with the HWDSB related to the construction and use of the batting cages. Upon completion of the project, HWDSB will have exclusive use of the cricket batting cages during school hours throughout the academic year and the public will have access outside of the hours reserved for school use. Public access to the cricket batting cages will be coordinated by City staff from the Recreation Division. The City's Public Works Department (Parks Division) will provide on-going general maintenance of the batting cages at an estimated annual cost of \$1,200 which will be absorbed in existing budgets.

The partnership will provide the City of Hamilton additional recreational assets in an emerging sport that has been clearly identified as a need through meetings with the local cricket association and with the school board (February and March, 2010). The partnership will also allow the HWDSB to provide additional sport opportunities for their students.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: \$25,000 has been secured by the community cricket association through a Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) community grant. The City of Hamilton, through the support of Ward 5 Councillor, will support the balance of the costs (estimated at \$5,000) for construction and installation of the cricket batting cages through the Ward 5 Area Rating Special Capital Re-Investment Reserve.

On-going maintenance of the cricket batting cages is a standard 4% on capital projects. This cost amounts to \$1,200 per annum. This will include staffing costs as well as costs related to on-going repairs and replacements and will be absorbed in existing budgets.

Staffing: Staff employed by the City's Park Division will maintain the cricket batting cages as part of their on-going work assignments.

Legal: Legal Services has been involved in the process of drafting the Licence Agreement in consultation with HWDSB's legal counsel.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Cricket has been identified as an emerging sport in Hamilton resulting from the changing demographics in the City of Hamilton. As identified in the City of Hamilton Outdoor Recreation Facilities & Sport Field Provision Plan, this has led to an increased demand for cricket sport infrastructure. In 2011, through the leadership of the Ward 5 Councillor and the local cricket organization, a grant in the amount of \$25,000 was secured from the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) community partnership fund to assist with the construction of two cricket batting cages.

Lake Avenue School was identified by the community as a prime location for the proposed batting cages. The City of Hamilton will be responsible for all costs associated with the construction and on-going maintenance of the cricket practice facilities (beyond

those offset by the \$25,000 RBC grant). The City will be coordinating the installation with HWDSB staff.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS/LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Not Applicable.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

In 2010, staff from the Recreation Division consulted with representatives from local Cricket Clubs (Cricketers Association of Canada and Crescent Cricket Club) around the need for cricket facilities and potential opportunities to develop the game. The executives of the two cricket organizations participated with staff on the site review of Lake Avenue School and support the development of the practice facilities in that location.

The community has been very supportive of the development of the practice facility. Recreation staff and the Ward 5 Councillor met in February of 2011 with the Principal of Lake Avenue School to discuss and obtain support for the project.

Recreation staff has consulted with HWDSB staff on the development of the agreement which includes the design, construction, access and programming terms and conditions. The development of the cricket batting cages is supported by school board officials, school board trustee, Lake Avenue School staff and community cricket clubs.

The Ward 5 Councillor has been involved in the discussion and development of the proposal and is fully supportive of the project.

The following City departments were consulted on the recommendations:

- **Parks, Public Works Department:** Recreation staff consulted with Public Works staff regarding the construction and on-going maintenance of the cricket batting cage. Access to the school property during school hours to do routine maintenance on the batting cages was raised as an issue. It will be addressed in the proposed licence agreement with the school board.
- **Risk Management Section, Corporate Services:** Staff have indicated that insurance and liability will need to be mutually shared amongst the City and School Board as it relates to programming of the cricket batting cages. This issue will be addressed in the licence agreement.

- Legal Services: Involved in the development of the licence agreement and have reviewed this report noting no objections.
- Finance and Corporate Services: Staff have reviewed this report and have no objections to the information herein.

ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The agreement provides the City with an opportunity to leverage a partnership with the HWDSB that will build sport capacity and allow the City to respond to the growing demand for emerging sport opportunities.

Proper practice facilities would benefit the children attending the Lake Avenue School and the greater community as well as promote and support a growing need for opportunities to play cricket.

The proposed project also supports the recommendations from the Outdoor Recreation Facilities & Sport Field Provision Plan which recommends that the City work with local cricket groups to provide additional opportunities to play cricket.

The Agreement will enhance accountability related to a shared asset by detailing:

- The roles and responsibilities of the parties;
- Use and access of the licenced premises;
- Maintenance of the property by the City;
- Construction requirements, times, and parameters;
- Data to be collected so that performance measures can be developed;
- Insurance and indemnification requirements;
- Reporting requirements;
- Protocol for maintenance and facility issues; and,
- City and HWDSB policies that must be adhered to during facility use.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN:

Strategic Priority #1

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Strategic Objective

1.5 Support the development and implementation of neighbourhood and City wide strategies that will improve the health and well-being of residents.

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

None